

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 were originally filed in the application. As a result of a preliminary amendment, Claims 1-48 were pending in the application. The Office Action was directed to the original claims rather than the amended claims. Original Claims 1-12, 15-26, 29-32, and 41-43 stood rejected, original Claims 27-28 and 33-40 stood objected to, and added Claims 44-48 were not examined. To further prosecution and pursuant to telephone comments by the Examiner, an attempt has been made to respond to the Office Action. To prevent confusion as to existing claim language, all of the claims have been cancelled and a new set of Claims 49-83 has been submitted.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 19-20, and 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The rejection stated:

'Claims 1, 41 and 42 cite "substantially unguessable... "; claims 19 and 20 cite "substantially large range of possible values..." These limitations recited by these claims are vague and indefinite, no limitation is imposed upon the claimed invention.'

Claims 19-20 and 42 were not otherwise rejected or objected to.

Claims 1, 19-20, and 41-42 were cancelled.

New Claims 49-83 have numerical limits, such as, "has a value that is one of one million or more possible values", rather than "substantially unguessable...", "substantially large range of possible values...", and the like.

Claim 49 includes language from Claim 19. Claim 49 states (*emphasis added*):

49. A method for sharing data with one or more recipients, the method comprising:

- identifying a selection of data to be shared;
- creating and storing a bundle containing information about the selection of data in a location accessible by a bundle server;
- associating bundle identification information with the bundle;
- creating a token representing the bundle, the token including the bundle identification information;
- providing the token to a recipient;
- establishing communication between the recipient and the

bundle server;

receiving a request for the bundle from the recipient, the request comprising, at least in part, the bundle identification information from the token; and

providing a copy of the bundle to the recipient having the token;

wherein the bundle identification information comprises:

a bundle identifier comprising a value generated randomly within a range of one million or more possible values;

a bundle store identifier comprising a value generated randomly within a range of one million or more possible values; and

an encrypted bundle name, corresponding to a bundle name associated with the bundle, the encrypted bundle name generated using the bundle store private key.

Claim 49 is supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims and at page 12, lines 24-28 and page 31, lines 16-20. The underlined portion of Claim 49 corresponds to Claim 19.

Claims 50 and 51 correspond in language to Claims 17 and 18, respectively, and are allowable as depending from Claim 49.

Claim 20 related to a bundle identifier. Similar language appears in Claim 65, which is discussed below.

Claim 52 states:

52. An apparatus for sharing a plurality of selections of data, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of bundle servers, each of the bundle servers configured for:

creating a bundle;

storing information about a selection of data in the bundle;

generating a bundle identification that is private and has a value that is one of one million or more possible values and associating it with the bundle; and

communicating the information about a selection of data in the bundle when provided with a requested bundle identification corresponding to a bundle that is accessible by the

bundle server;
a plurality of tokenizers, each of the tokenizers configured for:
 identifying a selection of data from a sharer;
 providing the selection of data to a bundle server to
create a bundle;
 obtaining the bundle identification from the bundle
server;
 creating a token representing the bundle, the token
including the bundle identification; and
 providing the token to the sharer; and
a plurality of redeemers, each of the redeemers configured for:
 obtaining a token;
 establishing communication with a bundle server having
access to the bundle, and communicating with the bundle server,
communicating comprising:
 requesting the bundle identified by the bundle
identification in the token; and
 receiving a copy of the bundle,
whereby receiving depends on having the token.

Claim 52 is supported by original Claim 42 and at page 31, lines 16-20 and is allowable on the same basis as original Claim 42. (Claim 52 incorporates a correction of the punctuation used in Claim 42.)

Objections

Claims 27-28 and 33-40 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 53-54 correspond to and replace Claims 22-28 and Claims 55-62 correspond to and replace Claims 33-40, all respectively. Claims 53-55, 57-58, and 60-61 are independent claims and are supported by respective original claims and in the same manner as Claim 49. Claims 56, 59, and 62 are dependent from Claims 55, 58, and 61, respectively.

Claim 63 states:

63. The method of claim 62 further comprising, following said creating of said token and prior to said providing of said token:
 displaying said stored bundle to a sharer;

allowing the sharer to alter said stored bundle.

Claim 63 is supported by the application as filed, notably at page 36, lines 18-24.

Claim 63 is allowable as depending from Claim 62 and as follows. Claim 63 requires displaying and allowing the sharer to alter the stored bundle during the time period between creating the token and providing the token to the recipient computer system. Applicants have been unable to locate such features in the cited references and request that the Examiner confirm the inapplicability of the cited references to this claim.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

Claims 1-12, 15-18, 21-26, 29-32, 41, and 43 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiyama et al (US Patent 5,805,699) in view of Cooper et al. (US Patent 5,563,946).

Claims 1-12, 15-18, 21-26, 30-32, 41, and 43 were cancelled.

Claim 64 is an independent claim that replaces Claim 29 and includes similar language. It is believed that the inclusion of Claim 29 in this rejection was inadvertent and that Claim 29 should have been included in the claims objected to, since there is no discussion of Claim 29, except for the sentence: "Claims 16, 29, 41 and 43 are in parallel with claim 1 and are rejected for at least the same reasons." Unlike the other listed claims, Claim 29 was not an independent claim or a claim for a system related to a method of an independent claim. Claim 29 was dependent on Claim 16 and is directed to features of using a relay service. Claim 64 is supported by Claim 29 and in the same manner as Claim 49. Applicants have been unable to locate Claim 64's claimed features of using a relay service in the cited references and request that the Examiner confirm the inapplicability of the cited references to this claim.

Claim 65 states:

65. A method for sharing data with one or more recipients, the method comprising:

- identifying a selection of data to be shared;
- creating and storing a bundle containing information about the selection of data in a location accessible by a bundle server;
- associating bundle identification information with the bundle;
- creating a token representing the bundle, the token including the bundle identification information;

providing the token to a recipient;
establishing communication between the recipient and the bundle server;
receiving a request for the bundle from the recipient, the request comprising at least in part the bundle identification information from the token; and
providing a copy of the bundle to the recipient having the token;

wherein said identifying is computer mediated and further comprises selecting, in a queue of undelivered email messages, one of said email messages as having one or more attachments in excess of a predetermined threshold; said method further comprises replacing said attachment in said email with said token; and said sending further comprises delivering said email with said token to said recipient computer system.

Claim 65 is supported by the application as filed, notably in the same manner as Claim 49 and at page 35, line 26 to page 36, line 5.

Claim 65 requires computer mediated selection of an undelivered email message in a queue as having one or more attachments in excess of a predetermined threshold, replacing the attachment with a token; and then delivering the email. Applicants have been unable to locate Claim 65's claimed features of using a relay service in the cited references and request that the Examiner confirm the inapplicability of the cited references to this claim.

Claim 66 states:

66. A method for sharing data of a sharer with a recipient, the method comprising:

displaying on a user interface of a sharer computer system, files and folders accessible to the sharer computer system;

receiving via said user interface, a selection by the sharer of files from said accessible files and folders;

creating a bundle including said files of said selection in a bundle store accessible to a bundle server, said creating being responsive to said receiving;

associating said bundle with a bundle identifier that is private and has a value that is one of one million or more possible values;

generating a token in said sharer computer system, said token including said bundle identifier and a communication address of said bundle server, said generating being computer-mediated;

sending said token from said sharer computer system to a different, recipient computer system;

receiving a communication at said bundle server;

testing said communication, said testing including determining whether said communication includes said bundle identifier; and

delivering at least part of said bundle responsive to said receiving and testing, when said testing determines at least that said communication includes said bundle identifier.

Claim 66 is supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims and at page 12, line 24 to page 13, line 9; page 31, lines 16-20; page 31, lines 9-11; page 30, line 25; page 22, lines 5-8; page 14, lines 14-20; page 13, line 30 to page 14, line 2; page 24, lines 13-17; page 25, line 29 to page 30, line 5; page 14, lines 24-29; page 23, lines 2-9.

Claim 66 requires displaying files and folders accessible to a sharer computer system on a user interface of the sharer computer system, receiving a selection by the sharer of some of those files, creating a bundle including the files of the selection in a bundle store, and generating a token having an identifier for that bundle. Akiyama et al. does not disclose creating a bundle of files from accessible files and folders and generating a token for that bundle, but instead requires generation of a "signature" using multiple identifiers in order to allow copying of software. (Akiyama et al., col. 4, lines 15-20) It is a purpose of Akiyama et al. to prevent the software from being accessible until the "signature" is provided. (Akiyama et al., abstract; also see, col. 1, line 61 to col. 2, line 33) Cooper et al. discloses a order screen, which can be used to order multiple software products. (Cooper et al., col. 10, lines 48-50) An example software product "Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows" is displayed in Figure 8 of Cooper as a product name rather than files and folders. (Cooper et al., Figure 8) The files and folders of the software product are not accessible in Cooper et al. when ordered and remain inaccessible until specific procedures are followed. (Cooper et al., col. 2, lines 27 to page 5, line 30)

Claim 66 requires computer-mediated generating of a token in the sharer computer system. The token includes the bundle identifier discussed above

and a communication address of a bundle server. Akiyama et al. discloses a system, in which a target storage medium has an individual storage medium identifier which is written at the factory before shipment. (Akiyama et al., col. 4, lines 6-8) The "signature" is generated at a central site. (Akiyama et al., col. 4, lines 15-19) Cooper et al. does not add to the teachings of Akiyama et al. in this regard.

Claims 67-87 are allowable as depending from Claim 66 and as follows.

Claim 67 states:

67. The method of claim 66 comprising delivering said bundle when said testing determines that said communication includes said bundle identifier.

Claim 67 is supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims and at page 14, lines 26-29. Claim 67 is incompatible with the above discussed "signature" generation technique of Akiyama et al. and even more unlike a combination of Akiyama with the encryption-decryption techniques of Cooper et al.

Claim 68 is supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims and at page 14, lines 7-29.

Claim 69 states:

69. The method of claim 68 wherein said bundle server comprises another computer system separate from said sharer computer system and said recipient computer system, said bundle server includes said bundle store, and said creating further comprises sending said files and/or folders to said bundle server.

Claim 69 is supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims and at page 16, lines 18-30. In Claim 69, the bundle store is in a different computer system from the sharer computer system and the bundle of sharer selected files from the files and folders accessible to the sharer computer system is created in that bundle store. It is not apparent how this can be compatible with the "master storage medium" and "central site" of Akiyama et al. (See Akiyama et al., Figure 1 and related discussion.)

Claim 70 is supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims.

Claim 71 is supported and allowable on the same basis as Claim 69.

Claims 72-73 are supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims and at page 34, line 26 to page 35, line 2.

Claims 74-75 are supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims and at page 17, line 15 to page 19, line 14 and page 30, lines 8-16.

Claim 76 states:

76. The method of claim 66 further comprising, following said generating of said token and prior to said sending of said token, allowing the user to alter said bundle in said bundle store.

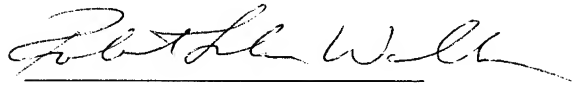
Claim 76 is supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims and at page 36, lines 18-23. Allowing a user to alter the contents of the master storage medium in Akiyama et al. would appear to be contrary to the intend of that patent. (See Akiyama et al., col. 3, line 4 to col. 4, line 3) The same is true of Cooper et al. and a combination of the two references. (In Cooper et al. Figure 8 and related text, the user alters merely a list of software program titles.)

Claims 77-87 are supported by the application as filed, notably the original claims.

It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite and, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Luke Walker".

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